shoots densely brown-hirsute, slender, 6-10 cm long, with many imbricating stipules covering densely hirsute vegetative buds; stipules falcate, obovate, rounded at apex, 4-5 mm long, 3-4 mm wide, scarious, brown, pubescent, early caducous. *Leaves* ovate, shallowly cordate at base, 7-14 cm long, 6-12 cm wide, glabrous; lobes 2-5 cm long, acute to subacute; nerves 11-13, ridged beneath, sparsely grey-puberulous beneath; nervules finely reticulate; petioles 5-9 cm long, glabrous, stout. *Inflorescence* simple corymbose raceme, 8-10 cm long, 10-12 cm wide; rachis 4-7 cm long, densely minutely puberulous, marked at base with scars of fallen bracts; bracteole solitary, median on pedicel, linear-subulate, 4-5 mm long, early caducous. *Flowers* 5-6 cm across, white to light cream-coloured. *Receptacle* cylindric, fleshy, with narrow cavity, broader at base and apex, 1.0-1.2 cm long, 2-3 mm thick, striate, densely minutely brown pubescent. *Sepals* 5, narrowly lanceolate, acuminate, thick at margins, 2.2-2.4 cm long, 3-4 mm wide, densely minutely puberulous without. *Petals* 5, clawed at base, oblong-lanceolate, sinuate-cordate at base, acute at apex, wavy at margins, 2.4-2.6 cm long, 1.0-1.2 cm wide, white with distinct nerves, sparsely puberulous on midrib and some nerves outside; claw 2.0-3.5 mm long, brown hairy at midrib on both sides. *Fertile stamens* 3; filaments 8-10 mm long, minutely sparsely puberulous; anthers linear-oblong, 9-11 mm long, red, with 2 longitudinal lines of dehiscence at front and back on each cell. *Staminodes* 2 or 3, slender, sigmoidly curved in bud, simply curved in flower, 5-8 mm long, minutely puberulous at base. *Ovary* shortly stiped, flattened, 1.0-1.3 cm long, 2-3 mm wide, densely brown silky-tomentose, many-ovuled; style 1.4-1.8 cm long, minutely puberulous; stigma swollen, subglobose, peltate. *Fruit* unknown.

This species belongs to the section *Meganthera* de Wit and approaches near to *P. stipularis* (Korth.) Benth. but differs by its longer and stouter petioles, longer pedicels, oblong-lanceolate petals and ovary with shorter stipe, peltate stigma and many ovules.

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ABNORMAL VEGETATIVE GROWTH IN THE GENUS *COELOGYNE*

Occurrence of abnormal vegetative growth or proliferation has special significance in the orchids. The most commonly employed methods of growing orchids are vegetative propagation and artificial culture of seeds or meristems on chemical media; the latter requires sophisticated laboratory facilities. Vegetative reproduction, therefore, continues to be the most widely adopted method of multiplication of orchids.

The genus *Coelogyne* Lindley has no pseudostems, but pseudobulbs of various shape and size. Pseudobulbs always arise singly and bear leaves at their top. The author has not read any report of proliferation of pseudobulbs in this genus.

There are a large number of live plants of *Coelogyne* under cultivation in the Botanical Survey of India, at Shillong. Proliferation had never been observed in any of the living plants, nor has it been seen in any of the several hundred herbarium specimens from different parts of India and adjacent regions studied by the author. The phenomenon was recently observed in two plants.

Date of receipt : 2. 11. 76. Date of acceptance ; 20. 7. 77

One plant of *C. fimbriata* Lindl. collected from Mawphlang in Khasi Hills, is under cultivation for last several years as an epiphyte on a tree-fern stem.

The genus *Coelogyne* is characterised by presence of 2 leaves on top of the pseudobulb. The Mawphlang plant had 3 leaves on some pseudobulbs (such unusual 3-leaved condition has been observed in some other species also). One pseudobulb was found to have on its top 2 small bulblets one above the other (Figs. 1a, b). The main pseudobulb bore 1 leaf (c) instead of 2. The second leaf was substituted by a small bulblet (a). This bulblet also bore one leaf (d) instead of two, and again the second leaf was substituted by another bulblet (b). The uppermost and smallest bulblet had a small sheath (e) at its base, and two unequal leaves (f, g) and a normal inflorescence (h) at its top. The flowers of the inflorescence opened in normal sequence up to the 3rd and last flower. (Voucher specimen *Das* 55460, 16.10.1974, ASSAM).

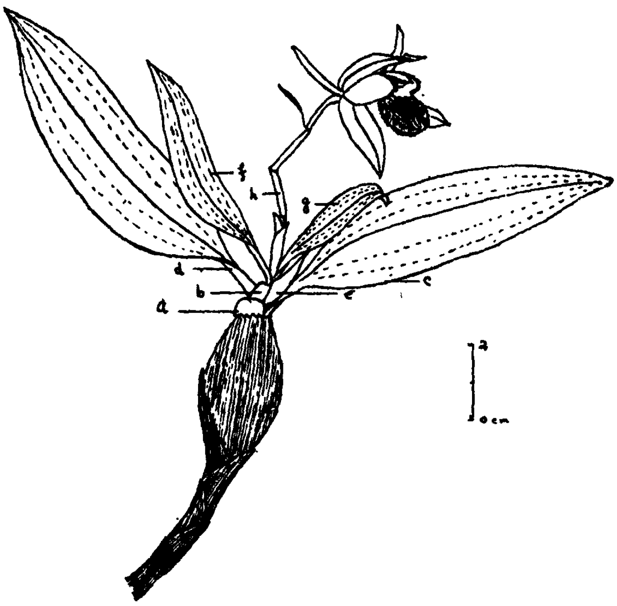

Fig. 1. *Coelogyne fimbriata* Lindl. a, b. Bulblet. c, d, f, g. Leaf. e. Sheath. h. Inflorescence.

Another case was noted in a plant of *C. suaveolens* Hook. f. (Fig. 2). This plant was originally collected from Bhutan and has been grown in pot in the National Orchidarium. The plant has several normal pseudobulbs in which at maturity the 2 leaves fall off leaving prominent scars, the 2 leafbases or scars being situated opposite to each other and almost at same level. One pseudobulb has shown the unusual formation of another pseudobulb on its top. Unlike normal ones, its 2 leaf-bases are not situated at the same level, but the upper one (b) is almost 6 mm above the lower one (a). The part of the pseudobulb between the two leaf-bases has given rise to a short rhizome (c) which bears the second pseudobulb (d). This upper pseudobulb has sheaths (e) and roots (f) at its base, like normal ones. Another abnormality is again the presence of 3 leaves (instead of 2) at the top of this pseudobulb. Of the three leaves the lowest falls off leaving a prominent scar (g) and a pair of leaves (h). Like normal pseudobulbs, new growing shoots are forming near the base of this upper pseudobulb. (Voucher specimen *Das* 60238, 20.8.1976, ASSAM).

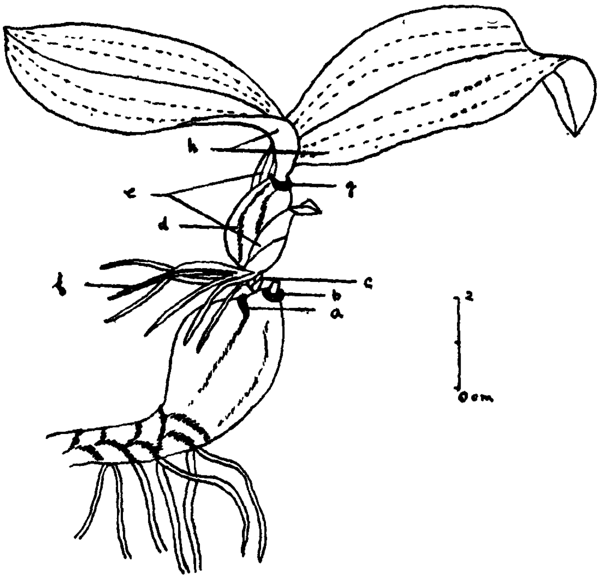

Fig. 2. *Coelogyne suaveolens* Hook. f. a, b, g. Leaf-scars. c. Rhizome. d. Pseudo-bulb. e. Sheath. f. Root. h. Leaf.

These instances of abnormal vegetative growth have practical significance; small bulblets can contribute in easy propagation of these species. Plants of all species are being further observed for any more instances of such proliferation in this genus.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author wishes to express gratitude to Dr. S. K. Jain, for encouragement and help in preparing this note and to the Botanical Survey of India for award of a Research Scholarship.

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LOCATION OF THE HOLOTYPE OF *GRONA FILICAULIS* KURZ (LEGUMINOSAE)

Panigrahi & Tiwari (1975) identified, with the help of original description, the two specimens *Tiwari* 20395 i (BM) and 20395 ii (K) collected from Madhya Pradesh (India), with the Burmese species, *Nogra filicaulis* (Kurz) Merr. (=*Grona filicaulis* Kurz) based on "Pegu, *Kurz*". They stated, "no other specimen has been traced, including the type, although a search has been made in the Indian herbaria at Calcutta and Dehra Dun and at the British Museum (BM) and Kew"

It is, however, a comfort to report here that during the recent re-arrangement of the several thousands of specimens held in the Calcutta herbarium (CAL) after the twenty four floristic regions within twelve main geographical regions of the World recognised for the purpose, a specimen annotated "*Grona filicaulis* Kurz" in Kurz's own handwriting, has been located. The specimen labelled, 'Pegu, 29.12.1870, *S. Kurz* 2549' bears a pencil numbering 211/3 but no accession number of the Calcutta herbarium. Obviously then, it was not available in the section popularly known earlier as the 'General herbarium'; it was presumably preserved in one of the small local herbaria *viz.* for "Burma" and had escaped attention of Dr. Tiwari when he sent his specimens to my former Kew address for identification.

The specimen *S. Kurz* 2549 (CAL) comprises three fragments—all belonging to a single plant; the largest fragment represents a twiner from the root and has 14 1-foliolate leaves; the fragment on the top left has three leaves and the one on the top right, one leaf and a dehisced pod without any seed. The flowers which Kurz described as "parvi, flavi, pedicellati, cirrhoso-pedunculate, axillares" are not apparently evident and the seeds "nitentia, olivacea, nigromaculato", have fallen off from the dehisced pod. All the leaves are 1-foliolate; no 3-foliolate leaves depicted in fig. 1A by Panigrahi & Tiwari (1975), are present. Otherwise, the specimen fits in with the detailed description of *Nogra filicaulis* (Kurz) Merrill given by Panigrahi and Tiwari (l.c.) and corresponds with the protologue of *Grona filicaulis* Kurz in every other detail. I, therefore, treat this specimen as the holotype of *G. filicaulis* Kurz.

A photograph of this very important specimen (Plate I) is reproduced here for the benefit of taxonomists interested in the systematics of the genus *Nogra* Merrill; duplicate prints of the same are also being sent

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Date of receipt : 6.5.77. Date of acceptance : 20.7.77